



In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
Chicago, Illinois  
April 7, 1948

DBB 44474

Title **NEOLA KAVAJA**

Character **INTERNAL SECURITY - YUGOSLAVIA**

Reference **Memorandum dated and captioned  
as above at Chicago.**

All sources (except any listed below) whose identities  
are concealed in referenced communication have furnished reliable  
information in the past.

Insufficient contact has been maintained with the  
source to ascertain reliability.

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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B  
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT  
DATE 2003 2006

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In Reply, Please Refer to  
File No.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DBB 74477

Chicago, Illinois  
April 7, 1963

NIKOLA KAVAJA  
INTERNAL SECURITY -  
YUGOSLAVIA

On March 17, 1963, a source advised that Nikola Kavaja had been a close personal acquaintance while Kavaja lived in Chicago, Illinois. The source stated they had both been active in the Serbian National Defense Council of America (SNDC), 19 East Pearson, Chicago. The source indicated Kavaja was staunchly anti-Communist and said that Kavaja had related that before coming to the United States he had been a pilot in the Air Force of Yugoslavia, under the present regime of President Tito.

According to the source, while in Chicago, Kavaja had appeared to be somewhat "different" from the average member of the Serbian National Defense Council and he appeared to have more of an aggressive nature. The source indicated that Kavaja would probably do things other people would not do. On one occasion Kavaja confided to the source that he had been paid nearly \$3,000 by Bishop Dionizije of the Serbian Orthodox Church to kill President Tito of Yugoslavia when Tito came to the United States on the last occasion. The source said that this deal had involved Kavaja kidnapping Andrija Artukovic, a former leader of the World War II movement of pro-Nazi Croats, known as Ustashi. Artukovic currently resides in California, near Los Angeles and Kavaja was supposed to kidnap him on behalf of the Serbian people, many of whom were allegedly killed by the Ustashi movement during World War II.

The source said Kavaja not only had collected this money but also much more and he was able to live for some time

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RE: NIKOLA KAVAJA

on this money. However, he was never successful in either endeavor, to kill Tito or to kidnap Artukovic. The source said Kavaja was supposed to have been hiding in a vacant house next to the house in which Artukovic was residing. According to the source, Artukovic is supposed to have taken a walk each morning and each morning Kavaja would have had the opportunity to carry out the kidnaping if he so desired. Instead he stayed there a few days and was finally arrested, sleeping in the back seat of the car of a friend. Kavaja had a .45 caliber automatic pistol with him at the time he was arrested.

The source said that Kavaja was not the only one who tried to kill Tito on the occasion of his last visit to the United States. There were others, but the opportunity did not present itself and although many persons made a genuine effort to place themselves in a position where they would have the opportunity, the opportunity did not present itself and no overt attempt was made. The source was unable to furnish any names of other persons who attempted to kill Tito.

Source said that Kavaja had been able to find a method of collecting money and this was probably the only reason he said he would kill Tito and kidnap Artukovic.

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